

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-5 and 10 have been canceled, and claims 6-9 have been amended. Thus, claims 6-9 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to make grammatical and idiomatic improvements in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Initially, in item 8 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 6-9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as presented in item 7 on page 3 of the Office Action.

Accordingly, in order to expedite allowance of this application, the rejected claims 1-5 and 10 have been canceled, and claims 6-9 have been thoroughly amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In particular, claim 6 has now been amended to refer consistently to "the nozzle unit." It is noted that the limitations of claim 6 have been somewhat rearranged to clarify the structure of the dispensing device of claim 6. Although it was already implicit in the claim that the dispensing device includes a plurality of dispensers, i.e., in view of the recitation in the last paragraph of original claim 6 that "the pitch between the nozzle leading end of the nozzle unit of the dispenser and the nozzle leading end of the nozzle unit of the dispenser arranged adjacent to the former is equalized to the pitch between the tube engaging holes of the plate arranged in the transverse direction" (underlining added). Also, to ensure proper antecedent basis for various terms in the claim, the "control means" portion of claim 6 has been moved to the end of claim 6, and now specifies "a control unit configured to control the suction and discharge of liquid from

the nozzle units by slidably moving pistons in the inside of the syringes by motors mounted in frames, respectively.”

The language of the dependent claims has been amended to conform to the language of amended claim 6.


Thus, in view of the indication of allowability of claims 6-9, and because the amendments do not change the substance of claims 6-9, it is submitted that claims 6-9 are clearly allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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